

Appln. No. 10/787,076
Amdt. dated August 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please add Figures 7-9 to the drawings as attached
at the end of this paper.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-10 are pending in the present application. The office action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to for failure to show the deformed portion and an illustration of the connection of the cover member and the frame. Applicant proposes to add additional Figures 7-9 attached hereto to remedy this deficiency. Applicant respectfully submits that these figures remedy deficiencies noted in the office action without the addition of new matter. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. patent no. 6,895,099). Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sugiyama et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,513,623). Claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Azima (U.S. patent no. 6,618,487). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a case for containing an electrical instrument, including a frame having peripheral wall portions, and a cover member having peripheral wall portions and

configured to cover the frame and form a space for containing the electrical instrument between the frame and the cover member. The peripheral wall portions of the cover member being configured to engage with the peripheral wall portions of the frame. The case further includes at least one hole passing through one of the peripheral wall portions of the frame and the cover member, and at least one protrusion each having a smoothly inclined surface. The at least one protrusion is provided on the other of the peripheral wall portions of the frame and the cover member, and when the cover member is fitted on the frame, an opening edge of the hole hurdles the smoothly inclined surface so that the protrusion is inserted into the hole to fix the cover member to the frame. This is not taught, disclosed, or made obvious by the prior art of record.

In Lee, the smoothly inclined surface is merely provided on an outer side surface of the tension rim 12 to impart a resilient force to the tension rim 12 so as to engage a leading end of the tension rim 12 with serration grooves 18 resiliently. Further, Lee fails to disclose or reasonably suggest the at least one hole, which passes through one of the peripheral wall portions of the frame and the cover member as recited in claim 1.

In contrast, the amended claims recite that the opening edge of the whole provided in the peripheral wall portion of the frame or cover member hurdles the smoothly inclined surface, thus allowing the protrusion to be inserted in the pass-through hole. Consequently, the smoothly inclined surface as recited in claim 1 differs from that which is disclosed in Lee.

Claim 2 depends from and includes the limitations of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over the prior art in and of itself, and for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 3 depends from and includes the limitations of claim 1. Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of protrusions provided on a peripheral wall portion of the frame, each having a smoothly inclined surface, and a plurality of holes passing through a peripheral wall of the cover member. Applicant respectfully submits that Azima does not remedy the deficiencies noted above with respect to Lee. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 6 are patentable over the prior art, whether taken alone or in combination, at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 7 recites a case for containing an electrical instrument, including a frame having peripheral wall portions,

a cover member having peripheral wall portions configured to engage with the peripheral wall portion of the frame, and configured to cover the frame and to form a space for containing the electrical instrument between the frame and the cover member, at least one protrusion having a smoothly inclined surface provided on the peripheral wall of the frame; at least one concave portion adjacent to the protrusion provided in the peripheral wall of the frame, and at least one hole passing through the peripheral wall portion of the cover member. When the cover member is fitted on the frame, an opening edge of the hole hurdles the smoothly inclined surface so that the protrusion is inserted into the hole, and then at least one deformed portion is formed by pressing the cover member from outside into the concave portion of the frame. This is not taught, disclosed, or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Sugiyama discloses a structure in which caulking portions 30b' are provided on a ring 30, and ultrasonic oscillation is given to the caulking portions to provide thermal deformation, thus allowing the ring 30, should be locked to a mounting portion 28B. Sugiyama does not disclose a smoothly inclined surface on a plurality of protrusions provided on a peripheral wall portion of the frame. Sugiyama also does not disclose a plurality of holes passing through

the peripheral wall portion of the cover member for receiving the protrusions inserted therein. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Sugiyama does not disclose the locking mechanism is defined in claim 7.

Claim 8-9 depend from and includes the limitations of claim 7. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-9 are patentable over the prior art in and of itself, and for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 7. Claim 10 is believed to be patentable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 7.


In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests entry of the proposed amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that upon entry of the amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 628-5197.

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Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By 
Ronni S. Jillions
Registration No. 31,979

RSJ:pap/cak
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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